

NBC's *Today*

10/07/26

7:01:48 a.m. [TEASE]

26 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump on the Ballot?]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Trump on the ballot. The President on the trail, claiming he is making the difference for Republican candidates.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: The Republican Party is starting to go right through the roof. Someone said today, I wonder why.

GUTHRIE: But on the ground, in some races, some candidates distancing themselves.

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS (R-ME): I'm not exactly his favorite senator.

CONGRESSMAN JOHN JAMES (R-MI): I've stood up to the President many times.

GUTHRIE: We are live on the campaign trail with less than a month to go until those key midterms.

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7:14:15 a.m.

2 minutes and 39 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Candidates Square Off as Midterms Loom]

GUTHRIE: Much more to get to this morning, including the race to the midterms. With just 27 days to go, the President is taking his message to voters in Texas today. Democrats preparing to welcome former President Obama to the campaign trail. Trump and his agenda also one of the big talkers in candidate debates across the country. NBC's senior White House correspondent, Gabe Gutierrez with more on what's happening out there on the trail. Gabe, good morning.

GABE GUTIERREZ: Savannah, good morning. The last time he ran, President Trump won Texas by 13 points, but he's returning there today to defend a hotly contested Senate seat, while raising eyebrows by saying that he does not know the top issue for voters. Candidates across the country now facing off ahead of the crucial midterm elections, with polls showing voters worried about affordability, Democrats are trying to tie Republicans to the economy, and President Trump.

FORMER ATLANTA MAYOR KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS (D): I will stand up to Donald Trump when necessary.

GUTIERREZ: The President, meanwhile, has been trying to downplay concerns about the cost of living.

UNIDENTIFIED WHITE HOUSE REPORTER [TO TRUMP]: What do you say is the number one issue for American voters in the midterms?

TRUMP: I don't know, exactly, when you look at the American voters, we're doing better, we're taking in trillions of dollars of investment. We have more jobs.

GUTIERREZ: Some Republicans in close races scrambling to distance themselves from the President.

COLLINS: I'm not exactly his favorite senator.

GUTIERREZ: In Maine, incumbent Senator Susan Collins facing off against Democrat Troy Jackson, who repeatedly tried to tie her to Trump in their first debate, dropping his name more than 20 times.

TROY JACKSON: We're in a Congress right now, that's totally given up their authority to President Trump.

GUTIERREZ: While overnight in the Michigan gubernatorial debate, the Republican candidate endorsed by the President also saying that he was concerned with prices.

JAMES: I've stood up to the President many times.

GUTIERREZ: Democrats now believe winning the Senate could be in reach, bringing in former President Obama to campaign in Michigan this weekend, where Democrat Abdul el-Sayed and Republican Mike Rogers are locked in another tight race. Rogers recently saying some oil costs driven up by the Iran war are coming down, but urging the White House to finish the conflict.

FORMER CONGRESSMAN MIKE ROGERS (R-MI) [on FNC's *The Story*, 10/06/26]: I do think it's time to start wrapping it up.

GUTIERREZ: Today, the President heads back to Texas, where Republicans are fighting to hold another Senate seat, once considered safely red. Trump touting his presence on the trail, which he argues is making a difference.

TRUMP: The Republican Party is starting to go right through the roof. Someone said today, I wonder why. [SCREEN WIPE] We had to explain what we're doing.

GUTIERREZ: After Texas today, the President plans to campaign in upstate New York on Friday, with the Republican candidate for governor there. Savannah?

GUTHRIE: Alright, Gabe Gutierrez, thank you.